

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the office action mailed September 15, 2005, the Examiner required restriction to one of the following inventions:

I. Claims 1 - 23, drawn to a method for heat treating a workpiece, classified in class 148, subclass 559+; and

II. Claims 24 - 27, drawn to a system for heat treating a coated workpiece, classified in class 266, subclass 144.

Applicants hereby elect the invention of group I, claims 1 - 23 for the purposes of prosecution. The election is made without traverse.

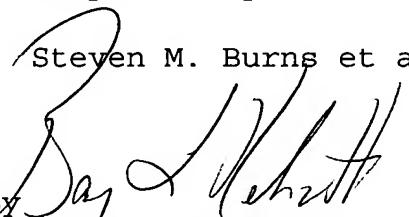
An early action on the merits is respectfully solicited.

Should the Examiner believe an amendment is needed to place the case in condition for allowance, he is hereby invited to contact Applicants' attorney at the telephone number listed below.

No fee is believed to be due as a result of this response. Should the Director determine that a fee is due, he is hereby authorized to charge said fee to Deposit Account No. 21-0279.

Respectfully submitted,

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I, Nicole Motzer, hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: "Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313" on September 23, 2005.

